The Lifting Of Govardhana Hill Musical
words by Jamini dasi

adapted by Mrgaksi Dasi & Akhilananda dasa
from *Krishna Book,* Chapters 24 - 27

* Transcription of the tape made by Mrgaksi dasi, Akhilananda Prabhu, Bhavatarini dasi and others. Narrated by Achutananda Swami.
* Used as a Puppet Show originally. Often performed as a musical by Gurukula students.

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CAST: Krishna, Nanda Maharaja, Mother Yashoda, Indra, Brihaspati, 2 Doormen, Servant, Apsara, Radharani, Cowherd Men, Cowherd Boys.

(Preparations for a fire sacrifice; everyone is very busy. Krsna enters slowly. He notices the preparations and interacts with other characters.)

Song: Blue Sky, White Clouds

Blue sky, white clouds
Krsna and Balarama
Following the cows
Over on Govardhana
Where the cows stray
The cowherd boys all play
With Krsna and Balarama
All through the day.

SCENE ONE

Krishna: Baba, what sacrifice are you getting ready for? Who is getting all these offerings? Are you expecting some special reward from doing it? Please tell Me what this sacrifice is for.

Nanda: O Krishna, You're only seven years old. Just a little boy. This business of demigod worship is too complicated. I don't think You'd understand.

Song: Let Us Not Worship Indra

Krishna: My dear father, what is this plan for a sacrifice?
Please explain it to Me.
Is it a Vedic injunction, or a popular ceremony?

Nanda: My dear boy, this function is traditional.

We have to thank Lord Indra,
For kindly sending rainfall.
We cannot live without the rain,
For farming or producing grain.

Krsna: My dear father, let us not worship Indra,
We have our duties to perform
Rain will come from the mode of passion,
Not by worshipping him.
Rain is falling on the ocean,
And on the land as well,
Besides we have a relationship
With the Brahmana men and Govardhana Hill.
We are satisfied living in this forest of Vrndavana;
So let us take the grains and ghee collected for the yajna
To satisfy our Govardhana, now never mind Lord Indra.

Close Curtains

Long Narration

SCENE TWO

(Fade out Vrindavan music, now celestial party noises, music, voices, etc. in Indra's palace)

Doorman 1: Chief of the demigods, Indradeva *ki* **(everyone, *"Jai!"*)**

Doorman 2: Lord of the celestial kingdom, Indradeva *ki* **(everyone, "*Jai!*")**

Brihaspati: Greetings, Indra. Quite a gathering!

Indra: Ah, my Lord Brihaspati, please accept my respects. Yes, half the heavens must be here today. Well, there's occasion to celebrate. My kingdom is secure and I am happy. And who wouldn't be, in my position, eh? I occupy a throne of power...

Brihaspati: (cuts him off) Which you must always fight to keep and are forever in anxiety about loosing!

Indra: Ah, don't be concerned. I have conquered all my enemies, the demons are beaten and running. Running! I tell you, Brihaspati, when I go forth into battle on the back of my elephant, Airavata, my thunderbolt in my hand ...

Brihaspati: (cuts him off again) Yes, yes, you feel supreme. Well, you're not! Although you're sitting on a high seat, Indra, beneath a

canopy as brilliant as the moon, served by heavenly maidens and demigods and praised by the sweetest singers in the cosmos, your opulence is only a hint of Sri Krishna's. You may be God's right-hand man, Indra, but you're not God!

Indra: (thoughtful but undaunted) I know it's your duty as my spiritual master to take my ego down a bit from time to time. Must be a difficult task keeping the king of heaven's feet on the ground, eh?

Apsara: More *soma,* my lords?

Indra: Yes, yes. Ah, *soma!* My guests came from all over the three planetary systems to taste this wonderful drink. They perform sacrifices, they perform austerities, just to come and drink the *soma-rasa* with us in our celestial city of gold!

Brihaspati: Indra, I don't think you're listening to a word I say today! I'm trying to help you out. You can't see it, but you're heading for a fall!

Indra: I'm sorry, Gurudeva. I... I'm a little intoxicated.

Brihaspati: You're very intoxicated with pride! Well, I'll tell you this, my son: one day soon you'll bow down before Lord Krishna, and that magnificent crown on your head will touch His lotus feet. That will be your supreme moment … not this!

SCENE THREE

Nanda: That is a very good idea, Krsna, and since You feel so strongly about it, we'll make a separate sacrifice, later, after the Indra sacrifice.

Krsna: No father! Don't delay! The sacrifice for the brahmanas and Govardhana Hill will take a long time! Better take all the things you have already gotten together for the Indra-puja and use them for the Goverdhana puja.

Nanda: (laughing) Alright my child, we will perform the sacrifice just as You say.

Gopa #1: Just tell us how You want the ceremony done.

Gopa 2: Yes! What do we need?

Song: Govardhana Puja

Krsna: Dear father, please prepare rice, dahl, halavah,
Puris, pakora, laddhu, rasagulla,

Sandesh, sweetrice, then call the Brahmanas.
Grains for the Brahmana men, chanting the Vedic hymns.
Decorate the cows, feed them well;
Keeping them in front,
Circumambulate the hill.
Govardhana Puja, Govardhana Puja,
Lots of prasadam, for dogs and Candalas,
Govardhana Puja, Govardhana Puja.
If you neglect Govardhana worship, you will be killed
by the snakes on the hill!
All the people of Vrndavana, for your good fortune
And the fortune of your cows as well
Worship Govardhana Hill.
Worship Govardhana Hill.
Worship Govardhana Hill.

Long Narration--Close curtains, hang up Gov. Hill, open curtains - worship hill ... return home... Indra became furious.

SCENE FOUR

(end Vrndavan music; begin gloomy music)

Indra comes on up top

Indra: They what!! I don't believe it! How dare they...Just see the impudence of these cowherds of Vrndavan! They are nothing but inhabitants of the forest, but being infatuated with their Krsna they have offended the gods! He is nothing but a child but by listening to Krsna they have enraged me! The people of Vrndavan must suffer the consequences!
(calling to servants): Send the Sambartaka Cloud!

Servant: My Lord? This cloud is the most powerful! It will flood the entire cosmos! Surely you're needing the services of some less destructive cloud to terrorize the residents of Vrndavan!
Indra: I said the Samvartaka Cloud!! The people of Vrndavana have become too puffed up over their comfort and riches, and are too confident in the presence of their tiny friend Krsna. He is simply talkative, childish, and ignorant of
the complete situation, although He is thinking Himself very advanced in knowledge.
Samvartaka! (S. responds with loud thunder and lightning) I am ordering you and your companions to go and inundate Vrndavana. Everyone there should be destroyed, along with their cows. What do you mean you are afraid to carry out these orders? You shall go, and I will go too, riding on my elephant, with great storms before, behind and on either side of me. And I shall use all my strength to punish these Vrajavasis!!

Song: Sambartaka Cloud

Samvartaka cloud, go destroy Vrndavana.
They have stopped the sacrifice which was meant for me.
Samvartaka cloud, go there and inundate the place,
They have taken Krsna so seriously.
Go! And I shall also go, riding on my elephant.
Great storms will come with me to give the proper punishment!
Pour down the rain now, all you clouds,
They should be destroyed along with their cows!
Pour down the rain now, all you clouds,
They should be destroyed along with their cows!

SCENE FIVE

(loud sounds of rain and lightning)

Woman: (shouting over the storm) Children, come here- Subala, Paramesvara, take my hands, hurry!

Man: Help! Bring the cows everyone, over here.

Man and woman together: (shouting over wind) Dear Krsna, You are the all powerful and you are very affectionate to your devotees. Now, please protect us from the wrath of Indra.

Song: Govinda

Residents of Vrndavana:
We are all in danger, Lord Indra's sending rain!
It falls like sharpened arrows, along with heavy winds!
Thunder, lightning, ice is falling too;
We are all in danger, what can we do?
Govinda, Govinda, we are now weak - let us take shelter of Your Lotus Feet!
Govinda, Govinda, Your mercy is sweet - let us take shelter of Your Lotus Feet!

Children: Dear Krsna, You are very strong, and You love Your devotees-
Now please save us from angry Indra, now please save us from angry Indra,
Krsna, dear Krsna!

Krsna: (to Himself) This demigod who thinks himself supreme has shown his great power, but now I shall strike his pride. I will protect my pure devotees of Vrndavan who are completely under My protection.

(Krsna picks up the Govardhan Hill and all the townspeople and cows gather around Him.)

Song: Lifting Govardhana Hill

Krsna: Dear inhabitants of Vrndavana, now I've lifted
Govardhana Hill.
It will protect you, like a big umbrella.
Don't be afraid and think it will fall,
Don't be afraid and think it will fall,
Be happy together!

Long Narration

- Krsna gazes at the Gopis
- the Hill shakes
-Balarama smiles
- Krsna becomes bashful

Mother Yasoda: Oh no! Now my little child is in a dangerous position.
(M. Yasoda shakes. Krsna smiles at His mother.)

Song: We're Not Hungry or Thirsty

Residents of Vrndavana:
We're not hungry, we're not thirsty,
We don't even want to sleep;
Krsna lifted up the hill and then we entered underneath!
We're not hungry, we're not thirsty,
We don't even want to sleep;
We just wonder how has Krsna held the hill for one
whole week!!
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna, Krsna Krsna, Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare.

Cowherd boy: (Walking up and kneeling near Krsna) My dear friend, You have been standing there for the last seven days and nights without any rest. This is bothering us very much because we are thinking that You are trying to do something that is just too hard for You to do. We don't think You should have to stand alone holding up this heavy mountain anymore. You should transfer it into Sudama's hand. If You are afraid that Sudama can't support he hill, then at least change hands! Transfer the hill to your right

hand so that we can give your left hand a massage!

Indra: (high over scene) What?? It appears that I was wrong about this Krsna! Great storms! High winds! Turn back. Take your armies and turn back!

Krsna: My dear cowherd men, now you can now go back tor homes with your wives, children, cows and valuables. The inundation has ended and the swollen rivers have returned to normal.

All: Let Me help you with it!
Children! Come on! Let's Go!
Oh, wasn't that wonderful!
Look how blue the sky is now!

- Krsna lowers the hill

Long Narration

SCENE FIVE

Long Narration. Lord Indra enters and humbly approaches Krsna.

Indra: My dear Lord. You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead, I offer my respectful obeisances unto You because You are the Supreme Person and the Supreme Soul. Please accept my prostrate obeisances. My dear Lord, I committed a great offense unto Your lotus feet, being falsely proud of my material opulence, not knowing Your unlimited power.

Long Narration

Indra: My Lord...please excuse me, because I am fool number one.

Krsna: My dear Indra, I have stopped your sacrifice just to show My causeless mercy and to revive your memory that I am your eternal master. I am not only your eternal master, but I am the master of all the other demigods as well. You should always remember that all your material opulences are due to My mercy. Everyone should always remember that I am the Supreme Lord. I can show anyone My favor, and I can chastise anyone, because no one is superior to Me. If I find someone overpowered by false pride, in order to show him My causeless mercy, I withdraw all his opulence. Relieved of his false prestige, he becomes my devotee. That is his real riches.

Narrator: In this way the entire conflict was nicely and joyfully settled.